

## THE NATIVE AMERICAN.

To the Editor of the Native American.

I had prepared the following article for the National Intelligencer, but having observed in an editorial of a few days back, that Messrs. Gales & Seaton begged their friends to excuse them from continuing the discussion, I think it expedient to insert in your columns the brief rejoinder I wish to make to the Janus-headed Marylander—"A Native," who does not seem exactly to know his own mind, and is as yet on the fence, reflecting, no doubt, which is the safest side to make his descent easy. The article I send you, though hurried and rough, I flatter myself touches sufficiently at large on all the points of my adversary's remarks, which, to say the best of them, are not very remarkable for their strength or point.

BOSTON.

### REPLY TO THE COMMUNICATION OF "A NATIVE OF MARYLAND," HEADED "THE NATIVE AMERICANS."

Messrs. Editors:

Whilst somewhat surprised at finding an article on a subject which not many months back you had editorially forbidden entrance into your columns, I cannot but rejoice that by this apparent infraction of your own promises, an opportunity is given to a Native American to claim as a kind of right, the insertion of a rejoinder to matter admitted by yourselves for publication. I rejoice, because I know you too well to imagine for a moment that this temperate reply will not be inserted, and whilst thus gratified in being able to make use of your widely circulated and able journal as the vehicle of my thoughts and opinions, am sorry that the writer of "The Native Americans" had not entered more into the subject, and thus afforded the Association he finds fault with, more field for argument and discussion.

But to the point. I feel, Gentlemen, one small difficulty in setting out in this paper tournament, from the doubt I entertain as to the creed and object of the Marylander. I do not exactly know whether to regard him as friend or foe; for whilst he differs from us Natives on some points, he clearly agrees with us on others, as I hope soon to prove. I shall, however, to split the difference, meet him in both characters, and where he approves our doctrines, praise him for his orthodoxy, and where we differ, attempt to conquer him by argument and reason.

In the first place, we thank you Mr. Marylander, for the deserved compliment you pay to our motives, and feel less loath to discuss a point with one so just and honest in his declarations, and I am as willing as yourself to appeal, as our Association ever has done, to "American mind," and not exclusively to the "American heart."

Secondly, in reply to your assertion, that "no complaint has been made that naturalized citizens have exercised the elective franchise, I beg leave to remark that our reform does not pretend to be "retrospective," but "prospective"—that however much we may regret the unwise generosity of our fathers in extending political privileges to aliens, since as adopted citizens they have rights which we will not and dare not invade, it is but in accordance with the constitution of the land, as well as of our own Association, that we do not complain of any proper exercise of political power by those who have acquired such rights and immunities. But as to the second assertion, that we complain "that aliens, before attaining the high privilege, had been induced, or had presumed, to use it, or attempt its use," why you yourself, Mr. Marylander, agree with us in another part of your lucubration, fully and conclusively, and deprecate in strong terms the abuses arising from the present lax system of legislation.

We agree also with the writer, in the opinion, that the "political movers of the wire" should be censured, and with his approval to sustain us, we shall ever condemn corruption of the elective franchise, come it from home or abroad. That Natives have encouraged Aliens to perjury at the hustings, is unfortunately too true; but are we, the majority, to be taunted by individual cases of vice and corruption among those born on the soil, when as a set off to the accusation, we can point you to numberless cases of degraded licentiousness and disregard of moral obligation in Aliens claiming admittance to our political family.

Thirdly, the Native of Maryland comes to argue the matter with us, and lays down the broad proposition that Congress not having the right or power to "abolish the naturalization laws," our objects are unconstitutional. Now, Gentlemen, it strikes me that Congress have the right and power to exercise their discretion in this matter; for if it is unconstitutional to interfere with the naturalization law, why was it that that body have passed divers laws upon the subject? At first, seven years, as probation, were required,—after that, the time was enlarged to fourteen years; and lastly, has been reduced to five. Here we have direct facts against the assertion of the gentleman. Again, he seems to argue that because Congress have the power "to establish a uniform law of naturalization," that "the idea of abolishing all rule or law upon this subject is precluded." Is the gentleman acquainted with logic—with the "esse" and "posse" of a power or right? Congress has the power to enact a law in relation to "direct taxes," and yet the power now remains in "esse"—it is not now exercised. Congress has the power to pass "a general law of bankruptcy," and yet it never has been carried into effect. In a word, I humbly conceive, that the power in the particular case of naturalization can remain dormant as well as the power of levying direct taxes and passing a general law of bankruptcy, and that if at any time Congress shall deem it proper to abolish entirely the present law on naturaliza-

tion, it has the power and the right so to do; for the necessity or expediency of encouraging emigrants ceasing, and the discretion of exercising that right or not being vested in the two Houses, it is a clear sequitur, that the right and power both reside where the constitution has placed them. But I must tell the gentleman, as he appears to be ignorant of the fact, that it is our intention to memorialize Congress for a repeal of the existing laws of naturalization, or such a modification thereof as it may seem proper and constitutional. With them lie the manner and the measure of the change; and of course if the present law be abolished, it will be replaced by one more in accordance with the creed and objects of our Association. So much for the gentleman's mixture of the "esse" and the "posse."

As to the regret of the writer, that among the objects for which it is "proposed by the Society of Native Americans to petition the national legislature, the passage of a rigorous law to protect and preserve the purity of elections, has not been enumerated," I tell him, that our disclaimer of any interference with the political questions properly so called, which divide our community, prevented us from alluding pointedly to that abuse; and he should do us the justice to confess, that our organ here, "The Native American," has discussed that point, and had expressed with becoming warmth and indignation the condemnation of the Association of which it speaks the sentiments. It would be no doubt gratifying to all true lovers of their country, that a remedy, radical and lasting, should be applied to the evil of which the gentleman so justly complains; and it is to be hoped that the introduction of our memorial in Congress will have the effect of bringing before that body an examination into the abuses of the elective franchise, whether they proceed from natives, foreigners, or aliens.

The "Native of Maryland" then asks the question, with a tone of triumph, "Who are those that would deny to the honest foreigner the rights of citizenship? Are they not all descendants—some a little more and some less remote—from European parents?" Now, it would just be about as reasonable to censure England for her hostility to France, because their and our ancestors were in olden times inhabitants of Normandy. It would be as reasonable to assert that the near relationship which existed between old Spain and her South American possessions ought to have forbidden an appeal to arms; and because they might have contended against kinsfolk, the resistance of the Colonies, and their achievement of independence are not justifiable on the score of natural feelings and gratitude. The gentleman also falls into the worn-out cant of the day by reproaching us for our forgetfulness of what aliens have achieved for our liberty, forgetting himself, in his hurry to convict us of ingratitude, that our debt has been paid and cancelled. It has been paid in full, I repeat, for we all must know that those brave foreigners who fought with our fathers, have been rewarded in their own persons, or in their descendants; and that the fact of our having been benefited by a few extraordinary men does not and ought not to serve as a recommendation to those of the present day, who, besides having no claims in themselves, can have none either on the plea of relationship to the Lafayettes, Montgomeries, &c. &c., or as their legal and acknowledged agents or representatives. We do not pretend to differ from the Marylander in his praise of those great and good men, but we do protest against this hackneyed practice of endorsing the rotten certificates of paupers and felons by the names of such worthies. In receiving aliens to the same rights as ourselves, it is both fair and sensible to judge them by their own merits, and not by those who sleep with their fathers, or with whom they claim neither relationship nor acquaintance. The two last branches of the argument against us, I humbly conceive to be too weak and commonplace to need any more discussion, and shall pass on to that part of the communication which is Native American in form and matter.

Every member of our Association, and all Natives from Maine to New Orleans, agree in toto with the writer, when he exclaims, "It is intolerable that this country should be burdened by the cunning policy of petty corporations or parishes there (in Europe) with the charge of their infirm and disabled paupers, or vicious culprits." Why, gentlemen, it is almost verbatim what we all have asserted; and as to the remedy to be applied to turn aside the foul invasion from abroad, we leave that to the wisdom and discretion of Congress, at whose hands we solemnly ask for redress. "Let Europe bear the burden of her own vices and infirmities," says the gentleman; and our Association enthusiastically cry, Amen!

The gentleman is also right when he recommends a reasonable probation before aliens are admitted to the rights of citizenship. It is our intention soon to lay a memorial before Congress for that object, and no one can expect that a total repeal of the present law will be made without substituting a residence in the country, sufficient to extend that probation to a more reasonable time than at present is the case. We agree entirely with the Native of Maryland, when he again exclaims, "Let them not aspire to a part in the government of the country by voting until they have become acquainted with its institutions and its laws, and learned how to obey them;" and though there is a difference of opinion among natives on this point, (some thinking that aliens should be content with civil and religious rights, without meddling in our politics, among whom I profess to be;—others that twenty-one years would be long enough to entitle them to naturalization,) still the most ultra Natives amongst us will be satisfied if Congress lengthen the probation to twenty-one years, or even to fourteen. Native Americans have to live twenty-one years before they can vote,

and "a fortiori," should prejudiced or ignorant foreigners be compelled to do the same. Mr. Marylander, I feel inclined, I assure thee, to hail thee as a Native, so much dost thou acquit to our opinions.

The compliment of the gentleman to Irish valor is certainly deserved. I have a profound respect for that country; but I assert that we need no foreign aid to support us in any contest, as native valor and native strength are sufficiently great and abundant to meet any emergency—any danger. I protest against the practice of our government to employ aliens as soldiers, and point you to the case of the seditious Germans at New York for illustration. I protest against the remarks of my opponent, because we should place more reliance in our own countrymen, than in foreigners, bound to our soil only by ties of interest, seldom by those of the heart—because it is an insult to the native population, and by placing arms in the hands of mercenary and brutal aliens, the Executive has it in his power to create a standing army, and send to foreign countries for such mercenaries, in order, when it suits his will, that he may invade the constitution and the laws of the land. Reflect, Mr. Marylander, on the Latin adages, "Experientia docet" and "Incaendo tutus," and let not your partialities to "old Ireland," Germany, the Hotentots, or the Tartars, get the better of the sound sense and judgment, which I perceive from your thoughts and style are salient features of your mind.

As regards the finale, that we should encourage the occupation of our soil by foreigners, I tell the gentleman, in the name of the Association, that we have no objection to reputable, honest and industrious foreigners settling among us. It is against their sharing, when unprepared, in our political rights, and controlling our elections, that we to a man protest—not against the civil and religious liberty of mankind.

So much my time allows me to devote to the "Native of Maryland;" and though sorry that I cannot answer him more in detail through fear of crowding too much your columns, I am pleased to find my quasi opponent so much of a Native both in birth and feelings. He evidently argues against his own convictions. BOSTON.

### THE EFFECTS OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE ON OUR INSTITUTIONS.

This is a subject to which we would attract the constant attention of the public till some measures are taken to prevent the evils we are now enduring, and the greater ones we will be obliged to endure if the mass of foreign immigration and influence be not speedily checked. It is one, too, which our people, in the morbid sleep of an unnatural apathy, almost totally neglect. Americans are fond of praising the purity of their institutions, and, in the jubilant feelings attendant upon the success of a great republican experiment, feel sanguine enough to believe that it is founded upon the rock of ages. Fatally may we be undeceived, and, ere we wake from our treacherous slumber, we may be forced to endure the weight of the falling ruins of that temple which we so love in our hearts, but which we so unnaturally neglect to defend.

Solon, the Athenian sage, was invited by Cressus, King of Lydia, to visit him at his court. After having displayed all the evidences of his unbounded wealth, Cressus asked if there could live a happier man than Cressus, to which the wise Athenian replied, "I cannot answer you until I see your death." Americans are like Cressus; they ask if there can exist a better and firmer government than their own, and the spirit of prophecy will answer like the sage, the future only can determine. Let not the parallel be carried any farther, and in the after history of Cressus let Americans take note that prosperity brings, with its own foe, and that the proudest structure will eventually fall if not guarded and supported.

The dangers that threaten us are many, and important if not immediate. It is the object of this article to point out a few, and to suggest such measures as in our humble opinion are best calculated to defeat them.

First, the form of our government is hostile to the existence of all others. It has its basis in the people, in contradistinction to those where authority is hereditary, and not subject to the will of the people. The danger arising from our form of government is found in the jealousy of kings and emperors, and in that solicitude for the permanency of their own thrones which requires the destruction of all that is inimicable to it. We know of no better security against any attempts to subvert our institutions, than to increase within our breast the patriotic love of country, and to be on the watch continually against every infringement upon the direct line of republican principles. This is a virtue which Americans most want. Secondly, we are in danger from the increase of foreign population within our own borders. This danger is more imminent than the first, for whilst that is without it can be the easier repulsed; but this is within, secretly undermining our defences, and preparing to strike the blow of an enemy while bearing the insignia of a friend. Year after year hordes of the ignorant of all nations are hurried to our shores, swelling the mass of foreign population, till it has not only become a tax upon our energies, a burden to our state, but a dangerous opponent to our liberties. To defend ourselves, immigration should be cut off root and branch, and the people should call upon the rulers to repeal our present laws of naturalization. There is no delusion in this. Every new comer to this country is an enemy to our institutions. Reared to the yoke, custom has made it necessary, and he will be ready at all times to join the disaffected in the works of treason and destruction. Boston American.

ATTRACTION.—The Washingtonians can scarcely decide which is the more attractive, Mr. Adams in the Capitol, or Mr. Vandenhoff at the Theatre.—N. Y. Whig.

FINANCES OF MARYLAND.—We learn from the Report of the Treasurer of the Western Shore, that the aggregate receipts into the State Treasury during the year 1837 were \$1,795,360 16. Among the items which make up this sum are, \$955,688 on account of the State's share of the surplus revenue; and the sum of \$83,248, being the State's one-fifth of the receipts from the passengers on the Washington railroad. The disbursements of the treasury for the year were \$1,745,694, leaving a balance of \$49,666. This balance, however, is subject to appropriations amounting to \$119,870, and shows the treasury to have been deficient on the 1st December, 1837, by the sum of \$69,204.

## PROCEEDINGS OF CONGRESS.

[FROM OUR REPORTER.]

### Seventh Week of the Session.

Spring still waves her rosy branch of buds upon the air, and winter covers before the presence of the unexpected Queen. This weather delights us all. We love to tread upon flowers, rather than hear the icicles splintering beneath our feet. But how long will it last? "That's the question." To-morrow it may disappear, and leave us shuddering in the unprepared for blast; but I, a poor beggarly accountant of empty speeches, am sentimentalizing—and yet I would fain linger on the theme; for nothing I do dread so much as this my weekly report of Congressional proceedings. I cannot sketch in detail, but I must condense them together, group my figures, and let the gentle reader see them all at once.

Still in the Senate the cloud of abolition lowers, and the six resolutions are undetermined on. The plainer a proposition now-a-days, the more debate; and grave seignors will quarrel by the day, week, or month, whether the Constitution of the United States was adopted for freemen, and by freemen, or not. We have not progressed over fifty odd years in our national existence, and lo! we are in the midst of doubt as to what our good old gallant fathers meant by the charter of our liberties. There is a gloom indeed around and over us—doubt among ourselves with regard to the principles of the Republic, and aliens and foreigners mingling in the strife, and adding their ignorance to our disposition to party warfare. It is they who disturb the calm river of our tradition; who foment doubt and quicken animosity; and until they are swept away, we will continue to wrangle, dispute, and Heaven knows what else.

In the House, Messrs. PRENTISS and WORD, of Mississippi, have been admitted to the floor of the House by courtesy, not by right, and the former gentleman has opened the contest for the seats of Messrs. CLAIBORNE & GHOLSON, the sitting members.

Mr. PRENTISS is a most brilliant and elegant orator. I really do not pretend to know anything of his politics, and even if I do know, to what school he belongs, it shall not prevent my saying that he is eloquent. The Globe, with its black claws may scratch at us for the eulogium, or the Intelligencer may freeze us into circumspection by its lofty disdain. I never heard an argument so forcible, and language so chaste; his rhetoric is masterly and picturesque. I could quote from memory passages of vivid brilliancy, but, alas! where is the use? His speech will be published by the mammoths of the day, and every body will read it.

I must not forget to remark, that if Messrs. CLAIBORNE & GHOLSON are ousted from their seats, the whole extra session will be null and void—for on some questions, their votes alone, carried important measures. If they were acting illegally, where is the legality of the extra session?

These are grave questions that will bear upon the subject, and probably prejudice the decision of the House.

I believe that the unfortunate difference between the two gentlemen of the lower House, will not be carried further—every one hopes so. During the quarrel, the galleries were crowded with ladies; rather singular, too, and you might have heard a pin drop among them. Not one of their sweet tongues moved, except to the burthen of a sigh, during the painful occurrence.

No important bills have been passed as yet. Nothing for Florida; nothing for Canada; nothing for Mexico; nothing for the northeastern boundary question, urged, too, by the President, while other matters excite great interest, though of small import. I must tell you, by the way, that I frequently see the President riding out on horseback; he rides well and fast; as plain as a pike staff, too, but on a delightful bit of blood.

We substitute the following proceedings from the Intelligencer of last Monday, upon the subject of the Native American Memorial of this city:

### THE MEMORIAL OF THE NATIVE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

The Memorial offered on Monday last by Mr. PATTON, of Virginia, asking for a modification of the Naturalization Laws, which Mr. LINCOLN, of Massachusetts, had moved to commit with certain instructions, and which memorial and instructions Mr. HAYNES had moved to refer to the Committee on the Judiciary, and Mr. PATTON to a select committee, came up in order.

The CHAIR was of the opinion that, under the rules, the sense of the House should be taken on the present condition of the memorial, in point of order of proceeding.

Mr. LINCOLN remarked, (in answer to a suggestion near him, that this memorial had some relation to the abolition question,) that it had no such tendency.

The question being put, the House refused to consider the memorial at this time by a vote of Yeas 69 to 78 Yeas.

Mr. LINCOLN then gave notice that he would withdraw his instructions, if permitted, rather than embarrass the memorial in its consideration by the House; and, at his request, the question was again put, and the instructions being withdrawn, the memorial was taken up for consideration without a division.

Mr. PATTON remarked that this memorial had been confided to him, by the Native American Association, a most respectable society of this District; and his only wish is that it should receive such a reference as would secure for it a careful investigation of its prayer. In allusion to the same remark to which Mr. LINCOLN had alluded, Mr. P. thought it would be a sufficient answer to that suggestion, that he had presented it. He was of the opinion that the laws upon the subject of naturalization needed some amendment. Every one who read this memorial would perceive the true American and patriotic feeling which breathed throughout it; it was entirely disconnected from politics, and whether or not the memorialists went too far in their views on this subject would be for the committee, who should have their prayer under consideration, to inquire. He knew of no standing committee to which this memorial could appropriately be referred, and had therefore moved its reference to a select committee.

Mr. HAYNES defended his motion to refer to the Committee on the Judiciary. He adverted upon the disposition of members, at this session, to refer important subjects to select committees, to the exclusion of the regular standing committees.

Mr. LINCOLN said that at a future time he should give his views on this subject. At present he would content himself with expressing the hope that the memorial would be referred to a select committee. Mr. L. alluded to the suggestion that had been made, upon his rising to advocate his instructions, that this memorial had some reference to the abolition question. He protested against the establishment, upon that floor, of a prejudice against memorials coming from his section of the country upon that ground.

The SPEAKER remarked that nothing of that kind had been said in the House. Mr. LINCOLN said that it had been uttered on that floor, in his hearing, and that the gentleman from Virginia had deemed it important to allude to it, and to disown that it was a correct imputation. Mr. L. urged the necessity of immediate action upon this subject, and gave notice that he should hereafter address the House upon the memorial. He was in favor of its reference to a select committee.

Mr. HAYNES rose to order. He had understood that the House had refused to consider this memorial at this time. He would ask how, then, it came before the House?

The SPEAKER recapitulated the facts in explanation of that point.

The memorial was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, by a vote of 97 yeas, none not counted.

### THE SCHLOSSER OUTRAGE.

The following report of the Joint Committee of the two Houses of our Legislature will be read with interest:

Report of the Joint Committee on the Governor's Special Message relative to the Outrage at Schlosser.

The Select Committee appointed by the two Houses of the Legislature upon the Special Message of his Excellency the Governor, relating to the recent attack at Schlosser on the Niagara frontier, report: That immediately after their appointment they waited upon his Excellency the Governor to receive his views and wishes in reference to the matter with which they were charged, and to communicate their readiness to co-operate with him in recommending such measures as he might deem necessary to secure the peace of the Niagara frontier, and to protect the sovereignty and people of this State, at all times, from insult and aggression. At the instance of his Excellency, and in order to act with a full knowledge of the existing state of affairs along the Canada line, the Committee was induced to await the arrival of further information from that quarter.

At the second interview of your Committee with his Excellency, the accounts which, in the mean time, had been received from the scene of action, were of so favorable and pacific a character, as, in the opinion of his Excellency, to change the whole aspect of affairs; and that he was further of opinion, that, under these circumstances, there was no immediate action necessary on the part of the Joint Committee; adding, that the interposition of the General Government must speedily take place, and the further disposition of this grave affair committed to their charge, to whom it more properly belonged. Your Committee, accordingly, from the considerations above named, have taken no steps in the examination of the subject communicated by the Special Message of his Excellency the Governor to the Legislature. They beg leave further to state, that, since their last interview with the Governor, Major General Scott, commanding this Military District, arrived in this city, bearing with him a requisition on the Governor of this State, from the President of the United States; for a brigade of militia, to enforce the laws and preserve the peace and neutrality of the country; and that his Excellency the Governor had communicated to some of the members of that Joint Committee his intention to proceed without delay to the Niagara frontier;—being of opinion, in common with the Joint Committee, that his presence there might aid effectually in repressing the excitement of the people, and in leading back the public mind to safer councils; and might, moreover, enable the distinguished officer who represents the General Government, to carry out the views of the President of the United States with as little delay as possible. The Joint Committee considered it their duty, in pursuance of their appointment, to make this communication to their respective Houses, for the purpose of showing the unanimous disposition of its members to sustain, so far as depended on them, the Executive of this State, in any measures which he should think proper to suggest for the protection of its citizens, and the vindication of its sovereignty.

All which is respectfully submitted,

Edw'd. P. LIVINGSTON,

Chairman on the part of the Senate.

JOHN A. KING,

Chairman on the part of the Assembly.

### LOSS OF THE COLOSSEUM.

The Liverpool papers of the 4th December, confirm the loss of the ship Colosseum. The account says:—The Colosseum, a ship of 320 tons, left St. Petersburg, on a voyage to St. Ubes, and that on Sunday, the 26th inst. about 2 o'clock in the afternoon, they went on shore on the Kenish Knock.—They immediately hoisted their colors, and fired signal guns for assistance, and the same was observed by the schooner Robert, Captain Hunter, of South Shields, who bore down as near as possible, with a view of rendering aid. The mate and four seamen put off from the ship and boarded the schooner, requesting the captain to lay by the ship, and keep a light up, which was done. The wind and sea having greatly increased, rendered it impossible for the boat to return to the ship: night and a gale coming on, the captain of the Robert, unable to remain longer by the ship, stood off for the night. At daylight next morning, (Monday,) the schooner showed her colors, which were seen by the Ramsgate lugger, the Ranger, cruising on the bank of the Goodwin, when they, (the mate and four seamen,) were put on board the lugger, and at the particular request of the mate of the ship, they proceeded to the Knock Sand, if possible to regain their vessel. They could not discover any vessel. They then spoke a schooner, the captain of which informed them that they had passed the broadside of a large ship, with other wreckage, which circumstances leave but little reason to doubt the Colosseum having gone to pieces, and that the captain, with ten men and one passenger perished.

FLOUR.—This article in the west seems now to go a begging for purchasers. At Cincinnati and Pittsburgh, it is sinking rapidly towards \$5 a bbl; so we hope, with the cheapness of the staff of life and the mildness of the weather, and rather moderate price of anthracite, the suffering poor throughout the country will pass a comfortable winter. It is truly a providential dispensation under the ills of a bad government, that the unsurpassingly fruitful autumn has been succeeded by so propitious a combination of favorable circumstances. We shall probably, this year hear of no more foreign grain importations from the Baltic or Black Sea. New York Star.

MONTREAL, Jan. 9.—Saturday's Gazette contains a list of prisoners now in the two goals in this city, charged with the crime of high treason, of whom ten are members of the Provincial House of Assembly. The number is two hundred and five, of whom only five have English names. Besides those in custody above, a hundred have been discharged. No trials or executions have yet taken place. A private letter dated Quebec, 6th instant, says, "There are warrants for high treason out against Ryan, the atheist, and 11 others, but they all escaped by leaping the wall last night."